

## A VIDEO PROJECTION SCREEN ASSEMBLY

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTIONField of the Invention

This invention relates to a video projection screen assembly having a viewing screen and accompanying supporting frame which may be selectively positioned between a vertically oriented, exposed position for viewing, and a collapsed position for storage and/or transport, wherein the viewing screen may be automatically expanded upwardly to assume the viewing position from a floor mounted or similarly located housing, cabinet or like support structure, in an efficient manner which maintains a flat screen during use and is capable of supporting large screen dimensions.

Description of the Related Art

Typically, projection screens, such as those specifically structured to display video images for televisions or projectors, are formed from a relatively heavy, durable material and include an exterior surface treatment on the exposed portion of the screen being viewed which facilitates a clear and accurate depiction of the video images being projected thereon. Depending upon the particular application or utilization, video projection screens are either permanently mounted in an upright, exposed, vertical orientation, such as when use of the viewing

1 screen is a common or regular occurrence, or such viewing  
2 screens are structured to be retracted and stored until a use is  
3 required. Of the storable type of screens, they may be  
4 configured in a portable assembly, or may be fixed in an out of  
5 the way storage location. Such storable screens typically  
6 include structure that permits the screen to be rolled upon  
7 itself over a roller or like structure for eventual containment  
8 within an elongated, generally cylindrical housing. When  
9 disposed in a fixed position, such storable screens and/or the  
10 housing containing the screen are normally mounted in elevated  
11 locations, such as in a ceiling or suspended in a raised  
12 location on an elevated bracket secured to a wall or like  
13 supporting surface. As such, when use of one of the storable  
14 screens is required, the viewing screen that has been disposed  
15 in a rolled up orientation for storage is manually or otherwise  
16 removed from the housing by unrolling the screen from its stored  
17 location, and lowering it downwardly into an exposed, vertical  
18 orientation for viewing, thereby permitting gravity to assist  
19 the deployment and maintenance of the screen in a viewing  
20 orientation.

21 As can be appreciated, however, it is not always convenient  
22 or aesthetically appealing to maintain a bracket and/or  
23 suspended storage housing in a ready to deploy, elevated  
24 location. Such is particularly the case with home entertainment  
25 units or office presentation systems wherein it may be very

1 costly or impractical to recess the structure into a ceiling or  
2 wall, but continual deployment of the screen itself is not  
3 desired. In such circumstances, the available technology of the  
4 related art leaves users who cannot build expensive recessing  
5 structures and want to conceal the screens with no alternative  
6 choice but to leave a screen storage housing permanently  
7 suspended and visible, or to utilize portable structures. Of  
8 course, such portable structures have a number of drawbacks as  
9 well.

10 Specifically, existing portable structures are typically  
11 limited to generally smaller, lower quality screens because of  
12 conventional space and weight limitations. This can be a  
13 serious drawback when utilizing high quality projection  
14 equipment and/or when better picture quality is desired. A  
15 primary reason for this drawback is the suspension structure  
16 that must be employed with the portable screen assemblies. In  
17 particular, existing screen deployment structures require that  
18 an elevated suspension bracket be present so that the housing  
19 may be hung. Typically, however, either due to structural  
20 reasons or merely because the aesthetics of a location make it  
21 un-desirable, such a permanent bracket is not present. As a  
22 result, the assembly must provide its own suspension bracket.  
23 The most common type of bracket involves a tripod type assembly  
24 with a telescoping support rod. Such a structure is necessarily  
25 light weight due to its portable nature and due to the fact that

1 various components must be telescoped upwardly and suspended on  
2 a collapsible base. Accordingly, the weight, size and quality  
3 of the screen that can be effectively deployed is severely  
4 limited.

5 A further drawback associated with portable and even  
6 permanently secured storable screens is the need to maintain  
7 proper tension for a flat screen surface. Existing structures  
8 typically rely on a single, centrally disposed hook or clip to  
9 maintain the screen in its viewing orientation. Naturally, such  
10 fastening can lead to deformation of the screen during its use.  
11 Still, however, increasing the tension or securement of the  
12 deployed lower edge of the screen is not practical utilizing  
13 existing systems because of the added structure required to  
14 substantially secure the entire edge of the screen. Moreover,  
15 because of the generally light weight nature of the suspension  
16 bracket, too much tension cannot generally be applied, or the  
17 screen may collapse on itself.

18 Accordingly, there is a substantial need in the art for a  
19 new type of video projection screen assembly that is capable of  
20 being utilized with thick, high quality screens of all sizes, in  
21 either a portable or otherwise storable manner. Such an  
22 assembly should maintain effective screen tension and should be  
23 conveniently deployable in a manual or remote fashion.  
24 Furthermore, such a system should be structured so as to be  
25 effectively concealable when not in use, such as in a cabinet or

1 other article of furniture, so as to substantially mask its  
2 presence and such that an aesthetic appearance of a location is  
3 not detracted because of the need for permanent mounting  
4 structures. Also, such an improved assembly should be portable  
5 without compromising screen quality and deployment tension, and  
6 unlike conventional storable designs should be capable of  
7 automatic deployment.

8 In the design and structure of a preferred video projection  
9 screen assembly of the type set forth above, it has been noted  
10 that there are in existence other mechanisms in other arts for  
11 positioning flexible material structures from a rolled up,  
12 stored position to an outwardly extended, planer or expanded  
13 position. For example, it is known that certain commercially  
14 available mechanisms, such as of the type commonly used for the  
15 selective positioning of shade awnings between a stored position  
16 and an outwardly extended, operative position have been known  
17 and utilized for many years. Typically, such an awning  
18 positioning mechanisms include a plurality of arms disposed in  
19 spaced apart relation to one another. The arms are disposable  
20 in either a folded orientation or in an extended, operative  
21 position. Moreover, the awning material is secured to the arms  
22 in a manner which facilitates the substantially horizontal,  
23 outward extension of the awning from an exterior location on the  
24 building and in overlying relation to a door or window for  
25 purposes of providing shade as well as other protection from the

elements. In order to facilitate extension, these awning structures typically include a biasing spring between the arms so as to assist with the deployment of the awning when use is desired. It is important to note, however, that the awning, when in its operative position is substantially horizontally oriented, and most commonly downwardly angled. As a result, the forces of gravity greatly assist and work with the relatively weak biasing spring during deployment and during maintenance of the awning in its extended position. Naturally, such a conventional structure would be un-effective for use in the vertical, upward deployment of a video screen wherein the weight of the screen and the forces of gravity counter the positioning assembly. Indeed, it is noted that with conventional biasing springs, a typical structure includes a compressed spring that is expanded when the awning is extended. As a result, the spring is at its weakest and least stable when the awning is fully deployed such that the force of gravity is the primary factor maintaining the awning deployed. Of course, such a configuration would not function to maintain a video screen vertically deployed. Moreover, given a preferred embodiment wherein the video screen assembly includes a concealing housing or cabinet, a conventional structure would be insufficient to open a concealing lid while also deploying the screen. As a result, it is evident that someone of ordinary skill in the art would not look to conventional awning deployment structures for

1 assistance with a video screen assembly.

2 Accordingly, there is still a substantial need in the art  
3 relating to video projection screens for an assembly which  
4 efficiently and effectively deploys video screens of various  
5 sizes, including larger more heavy weight sizes, into a vertical  
6 orientation from a base storage location. Such a system should  
7 be capable of automatic deployment and should not require  
8 additional mechanisms or manipulation in order to maintain the  
9 screen taut and effectively deployed during use.

10  
11 Summary of the Invention

12 The present invention relates to a video projection screen  
13 assembly designed to be selectively disposed between an exposed  
14 position for viewing, and a retracted position for storage or  
15 transport. More particularly, the video projection screen  
16 assembly of the present invention includes a screen. The screen  
17 is designed to be disposed in a generally collapsed position,  
18 when the assembly defines its stored or retracted position, and  
19 can be concealed in a floor area or cabinet of a room or the  
20 like in which it is intended to be used. For example, the video  
21 projection screen assembly of the present invention is  
22 preferably integrated into an enclosing, substantially  
23 concealing housing or cabinet having a lid, cover or other type  
24 of closure structure which is automatically opened or closed  
25 depending upon the screen being disposed in its exposed or

1 retracted position as set forth above.

2 In the video projection screen assembly of the present  
3 invention the viewing screen is formed of a relatively, durable  
4 material having sufficient flexibility to be selectively  
5 positioned in either a taut, planer position when exposed for  
6 viewing or alternately in its collapsed position. In such a  
7 collapsed position, the viewing screen is preferably rolled upon  
8 itself, such as on a take up roller rotationally mounted in  
9 operative association with a base portion of the assembly.

10 As will be explained in greater detail hereinafter, a  
11 positioning assembly is included and serves to "automatically"  
12 dispose the viewing screen in the exposed position when desired  
13 by a user. This is done primarily due to the fact that the  
14 positioning assembly is structured and normally biased to urge  
15 or facilitate travel of the screen into the aforementioned  
16 exposed position. Conversely, when it is desired to dispose the  
17 viewing screen in the collapsed position, an electrically  
18 powered motor or alternately a manually powered hand crank may  
19 be applied to an exterior fitting serving to manipulate the  
20 aforementioned take up roller within the aforementioned  
21 cylindrical housing in which the viewing screen is stored.  
22 Forced rotation of the take up roller will serve to lower the  
23 screen against the biasing force exerted thereon by the  
24 positioning assembly, thereby retracting the entire assembly.

25 The positioning assembly itself preferably comprises at



1 least one, but preferably two sets of arms disposed in  
2 interconnected relation between a base portion of a support  
3 frame and a first portion of the support frame. The  
4 aforementioned first portion is preferably defined by an  
5 elongated bar or rod secured to an upper, outermost peripheral  
6 edge of the viewing screen and travels with the viewing screen  
7 as it is selectively positioned between the expanded and  
8 collapsed positions. The positioning assembly further includes  
9 at least one, but preferably a pair of piston assemblies, such  
10 as gas springs, interconnected between the two arm segments of  
11 each arm set. Each of the gas springs comprises a piston and  
12 cylinder arrangement specifically structured to be normally  
13 biased, without external connections to a gas supply, into an  
14 extended configuration. Accordingly, when the screen is  
15 "released" from its collapsed position, the gas springs,  
16 interacting with the two arms of each arm set, will expand or  
17 extend outwardly thereby serving to separate or extend the two  
18 arms of each arm set from one another. This action will serve  
19 to raise the viewing screen into the preferred vertical  
20 orientation which defines the expanded position of the viewing  
21 screen for viewing.

22 Due to the fact that the viewing screen is formed from a  
23 relatively heavy material of the type well known in the industry  
24 to facilitate clear and accurate viewing of the video images  
25 depicted thereon, a significant "driving force" is preferred to

1 force the screen from its collapsed position and maintain it  
2 effectively in its taut, substantially vertical and planer  
3 orientation to facilitate proper viewing. In addition the  
4 driving force should be sufficient to automatically force open  
5 any lid or like closure serving to cover a housing for the  
6 projection screen assembly of the present invention.  
7 Accordingly, the positioning assembly of the present invention  
8 preferably includes two of the gas springs independently or in  
9 addition to a more conventional auxiliary spring structure,  
10 which may be in the form of one or more biasing springs  
11 cooperatively structured with and mounted on or within each of  
12 the arm sets so as to interconnect the first portion and the  
13 base portion of the support frame.

14 Typically, the biasing spring structure, if integrated with  
15 each arm set serves to "spring load" each arm set such that when  
16 unrestrained, the two arm segments of each arm set will have a  
17 tendency to "straighten out"; aligning themselves end to end  
18 rather than in a folded, side by side orientation when in the  
19 stored position. It is this spring loaded tendency, as further  
20 aided by the structure and position of the gas springs, that  
21 functions to orient the arm segments of each set of arms such  
22 that they extend the screen from its collapsed position into its  
23 exposed, vertically oriented position.

24 Accordingly, an important feature and object of the present  
25 invention is the providing of sufficient driving force to

1 maintain a viewing screen of relatively heavy, durable material  
2 in a vertically oriented, exposed position and "automatically"  
3 accomplish positioning of the viewing screen from its normally  
4 stored positioned to the exposed, vertically oriented position.

5 It should be apparent that the weight of the screen is  
6 directly related to the size of the screen and accordingly, the  
7 larger viewing screen sizes may very well require even  
8 additional driving force applied to the viewing screen and more  
9 particularly, such a force is preferably applied between the  
10 base portion of the support frame and the lower most arm segment  
11 of the expanding arm set. For example, such additional or  
12 supplementary driving force is preferably supplied by the  
13 provision of at least one but preferably a plurality of  
14 supplemental gas springs equal in number to the number of sets  
15 of arms. Each of the supplemental gas springs are  
16 interconnected between the base portion of the support frame and  
17 a lower most arm segment of each set of arms serving to  
18 drivingly interconnect the first portion to the base portion.  
19 Therefore, when the screen is "released" from its stored  
20 position, the driving force tending to position the viewing  
21 screen into its exposed, vertically oriented position will be  
22 supplemented through the provision of the one or more  
23 supplemental gas springs serving to exert additional driving  
24 force on each of the arm sets.

25 Therefore, it is a primary object of the present invention

1 to provide a video projection screen assembly including a  
2 support frame connected in supporting relation to a viewing  
3 screen wherein the viewing screen is selectively positionable  
4 between a collapsed position for storage and an outwardly  
5 expanded, vertically oriented position for viewing.

6 Still another important object to the present invention is  
7 to provide a video projection screen assembly which may be  
8 mounted within a concealing cabinet, housing or like structure  
9 disposed in supported relation on a floor, desk, or the like in  
10 which the video projection screen assembly is located, for  
11 subsequent raising of the video screen.

12 Another primary object to the present invention is to  
13 provide a video projection screen assembly including a support  
14 frame having structural components specifically designed and  
15 structured to provide sufficient driving force to position the  
16 viewing screen and attached, structural components secured  
17 thereto out of the collapsed position and into the vertically  
18 orientated, expanded position for viewing.

19 It is also an important object of the present invention to  
20 provide a video projection screen assembly which may be  
21 selectively positioned between a collapsed position and an  
22 outwardly extending, expanded, vertically oriented position, for  
23 viewing which is not required to be mounted in an out of the way  
24 location such as within a ceiling or at other raised locations  
25 on a vertical wall or like supporting surface.

1 Another object of the present invention is to provide a  
2 video projection screen assembly incorporating a positioning  
3 assembly specifically structured to provide sufficient driving  
4 force to related components of a support frame so as to easily  
5 and freely position the viewing screen from a collapsed position  
6 to the vertically oriented, expanded position wherein the screen  
7 is exposed for viewing.

8 Yet another object to the present invention is to provide  
9 a video projection screen assembly formed of long lasting,  
10 durable components, including a viewing screen formed of a  
11 relatively heavy and durable material to facilitate clear and  
12 accurate viewing of video images projected thereon thereby  
13 assuring a long operable life of the subject video projection  
14 screen assembly.

15 These and other objects, features and advantages of the  
16 present invention will become more clear when the drawings as  
17 well as the detailed description are taken into consideration.  
18

19 Brief Description of the Drawings

20 For a fuller understanding of the nature of the present  
21 invention, reference should be had to the following detailed  
22 description taken in connection with the accompanying drawings  
23 in which:

24 Figure 1 is a perspective view in partial phantom of a  
25 video projection screen assembly of the present invention.

1           Figure 2 is a perspective view of a support frame portion  
2 including various structural components thereof absent the  
3 viewing screen being attached thereto.

4           Figure 3 is a perspective view of portions of the support  
5 frame as shown in Figure 2 wherein the support frame is  
6 represented in a stored or collapsed position.

7           Figure 4 is a perspective view of another embodiment of the  
8 support frame of the present invention different from the  
9 embodiment of Figures 2 and 3 and absent a viewing screen being  
10 attached thereto.

11           Figure 5 is a perspective view of the embodiment of Figure  
12 4 in a retracted or collapsed position for storage with certain  
13 components shown in Figure 4 absent from the structure of Figure  
14 5.

15           Figure 6 is a perspective view of the present invention  
16 illustrating the preferred integration of a concealing cabinet  
17 structure.

18           Like reference numerals refer to like parts throughout the  
19 several views of the drawings.

20  
21           Detailed Description of the Preferred Embodiment

22           In accordance with the accompanying Figures, the present  
23 invention is directed to a video projection screen assembly  
24 generally indicated as 10. The video projection screen assembly  
25 10 includes primarily a viewing screen 12 formed of a material

1 having sufficient flexibility to be disposed in an outwardly  
2 expanded or exposed position for viewing, as shown in Figure 1,  
3 or alternately in a retracted, stored position. For example in  
4 the embodiment of Figure 1, within an elongated, substantially  
5 hollow and preferably cylindrical storage casing 14 may be  
6 provided and operatively associated with a base portion of the  
7 assembly 10. When in the casing 14, the viewing screen 12 is  
8 preferably disposed in a rolled up configuration about a take-up  
9 roller (not shown for purposes of clarity). The take-up roller  
10 extends between two drive couplings or brackets as at 16 located  
11 exteriorly of the storage casing 14 and which are preferably  
12 structured to be interconnected to an electrically powered drive  
13 motor or a manually powered hand crank or other applicable  
14 device which serves to rotate the supply roller mounted on and  
15 between the externally located drive couplings 16. Preferably,  
16 this take up structure is also sufficient to retract the video  
17 screen from the expanded position achieved by the present  
18 invention.

19 Further, the viewing screen 12 is formed from a relatively  
20 heavy material which may be treated or coated with a reflective  
21 or like substance or material commonly utilized in the  
22 projection screen industry for providing a clear, accurate  
23 depiction of the video images projected thereon. Also, the  
24 viewing screen 12 may have a surrounding border as at 18 and a  
25 central viewing area as at 20. When the viewing screen 12 is in

1 its exposed, expanded position, for viewing it assumes a taut,  
2 vertically oriented position, as best shown in Figure 1, so as  
3 to provide a "flat" viewing area thereby facilitating accurate  
4 depiction of the video images projected thereon.

5 The video projection screen assembly of the present  
6 invention further comprises a support frame shown in phantom in  
7 Figure 1 and shown in more detail in Figures 2 and 3. More  
8 specifically, the support frame includes a first portion 24 and  
9 the base portion 26. The first portion 24 is preferably in the  
10 form of an elongated rod or bar fixedly attached to the upper,  
11 outermost end of the screen 12, as clearly shown in Figure 1.  
12 The bar 24 travels with and/or pulls the screen 12 as it moves  
13 between the collapsed position for storage and the expanded  
14 position, exposed for viewing. In addition to the take-up  
15 roller, the base portion 26 may include an elongated mounting or  
16 support bar 28 as well as a plurality of mounting brackets 30  
17 secured or attached to the support bar 28 and serving to fixedly  
18 attach the support frame, to an exterior supporting surface,  
19 such as within a concealing cabinet or housing or base or to  
20 another support surface such as a desk or table top wherein the  
21 entire projection assembly is mounted by means of the securing  
22 brackets 30. It is noted, however, that in a preferred  
23 embodiment, the securing brackets 30 may comprise a removable  
24 structure so as to facilitate portability of the assembly. Also  
25 in the preferred embodiment wherein the support frame is secured



1 to a cabinet or housing, the cabinet or housing may be  
2 structured to be transportable, such as on a plurality of  
3 casters, or may be fixed in place if a more permanent placement  
4 of the video projection screen assembly 10 is preferred. In  
5 either instance, the base portion 26 preferably provides a fixed  
6 reference against which the screen expands, and an efficient  
7 housing to receive and retain the rolled up or retracted screen  
8 12.

9 An important structural feature of the support frame of the  
10 present invention is that it includes at least one but  
11 preferably two spaced apart sets of arms as at 32 and 34. Each  
12 of the sets of arms 32 and 34 includes a pair of arm segments,  
13 such as a lower arm segment 36 and an upper arm segment 38,  
14 pivotally connected to one another at correspondingly positioned  
15 ends by means of a "knuckle" joint generally indicated as 40.  
16 The sets of arms 32 and 34 may be considered part of a  
17 positioning assembly which serves to position and maintain the  
18 viewing screen 12 in the expanded position as shown in Figure 1,  
19 wherein such expanded position is at least partially defined by  
20 the viewing screen 12 being disposed in a planer, vertical  
21 orientation and being sufficiently taut to assure the flatness  
22 of the exposed viewing surface 20 for video images being  
23 depicted thereon. As clearly shown in Figure 2, the arm sets 32  
24 and 34 are drivingly interconnected between the base portion 26  
25 and the first portion 24 of the support frame such that

1 extension thereof spaces the first portion 24 and base portion  
2 26 from one another. Preferably, outer distal ends 38' of the  
3 upper arm segments 38 are pivotally connected to the first  
4 portion 24. Conversely, the distal ends as at 36' of the lower  
5 arm segments 36 are pivotally or otherwise connected by a pivot  
6 coupling 39 to the base portion 26. In the preferred  
7 embodiment, each of the couplings 39 may be fixedly secured to  
8 the base portion 26 and can be considered a part thereof.  
9 Mounting brackets or like attachments 41 serve to support and  
10 fixedly secure the couplings 39 to the base portion 26 and are  
11 to be considered a part thereof.

12 An important feature of the present invention is the  
13 inclusion in the aforementioned positioning assembly of at least  
14 one, but preferably two piston assemblies. Although a variety  
15 of strong piston assemblies may be utilized, in the preferred  
16 embodiment, a pair of gas springs 50 are cooperatively  
17 structured and drivingly interconnected with each of the sets of  
18 arms 32 and 34 and preferably between the lower arm segment 36  
19 and the upper arm segment 38 of each of the sets of arms 32 and  
20 34. As set forth above, Figures 2 and 3 respectively show the  
21 support frame in the expanded and collapsed positions for  
22 viewing and storage. When in the collapsed position, the gas  
23 springs 50 associated with each of the arm sets 32 and 34 are  
24 disposed in a compressed position, as shown in Figure 3. When  
25 in such compressed position, the gas springs exert an outwardly

1 extending or "driving force" on the upper arm segments 38 of  
2 each of the arms sets 32 and 34. As such, in the preferred  
3 embodiment a lock assembly is provided so as to counter the  
4 force of the gas springs 50 and maintain the screen 12 in the  
5 retracted position until use is desired. In the preferred  
6 embodiment, the lock assembly is integrated as part of the take-  
7 up structure couplings 16, such as utilizing a latch, pin or  
8 clutch mechanism on the drive rollers which retract the screen  
9 when actuated. Moreover, it is preferred that the lock assembly  
10 be remotely actuatable so as to permit the screen to be remotely  
11 deployed into its expanded position when desired. Along these  
12 lines, remote retraction is also contemplated.

13 Because of the strength of the gas springs 50, when the  
14 viewing screen 12 is released from its retracted, collapsed  
15 position, it is essentially, "automatically" positioned into its  
16 exposed, expanded position as the respective gas springs 50  
17 associated with each of the sets of arms 32 and 34 expand  
18 outwardly into their normally extended position, as shown in  
19 Figure 2, and straighten the arms. Interconnection of each of  
20 the gas springs 50 to the respective arm segments 36 and 38 of  
21 each arm set 32 and 34 occurs by means of fixedly mounted  
22 flanges or the like 53 and 55.

23 The utilization of the gas springs 50 is especially  
24 beneficial in the embodiment of Figure 6. In this embodiment,  
25 the screen 12 and generally a remainder of the support frame are

1 concealed within a cabinet 65. The cabinet 65 functions as part  
2 of the base portion, and as previously recited provides a secure  
3 base to which the support frame is fastened and against which  
4 the gas pistons 50 gain leverage for deploying the screen 12. In  
5 the preferred cabinet embodiment, a lid 66 is provided to  
6 conceal the presence of the video projection screen assembly 10.  
7 As a result, the overall assembly can be integrated into a floor  
8 or other cabinet, with only the lid 66 being required to be free  
9 from encumbrances. In this regard, the preferred structure of  
10 the lid includes a hingedly attached structure that is normally  
11 in the closed position. As a result, when remote deployment of  
12 the screen 12 is desired, the force of the screen being lifted  
13 is sufficient to open the lid 66 of the cabinet 65. Such  
14 provides for a particularly aesthetic and concealed appearance,  
15 and is preferred especially because higher quality cabinet  
16 material also tends to be heavier, but the cost of an additional  
17 lid opening mechanism may not be desirable. Of course, it is  
18 understood that the lid may be remotely opened as part of a  
19 secondary mechanism, and the cabinet itself may take on any of  
20 a number of configurations including a recessed area within a  
21 floor or wall surface depending upon the space constraints and  
22 decorative needs of a user. Accordingly, only when the screen  
23 12 is required will it be visible within a room.

24 Although the gas springs can be configured of varying sizes  
25 and strengths to correspond with the relatively heavy weight of

1 a high quality viewing screen 12 and to ensure that the viewing  
2 screen 12 is maintained in a vertical orientation and overall  
3 planer configuration as it travels to and is maintained in the  
4 exposed position of Figure 1, the positioning assembly may also  
5 include an auxiliary spring assembly, such as a biasing spring  
6 structure, preferably mounted on the interior of each of the arm  
7 sets 32 and 34. Such biasing spring structure can be associated  
8 with each of the arm sets 32 and 34 may be of somewhat typical  
9 construction. Such construction provides a spring loading  
10 serving to normally bias or facilitate outward extension or  
11 separation of the lower and upper arm segments 36 and 38 of each  
12 of the arm sets 32 and 34. More specifically, the spring  
13 loading of the arm sets caused by the internally mounted biasing  
14 spring structure may be provided by running a steel cable from  
15 the inside of one arm segment, around the knuckle joint 40 which  
16 serves to pivotally interconnect corresponding ends of the  
17 respective arm segments 36 and 38 of each arm set to the inside  
18 of the opposite arm segment. In one arm segment, the steel  
19 cable will be tied off or secured. Inside the other arm segment  
20 the steel cable would be connected to one or more steel coil  
21 springs serving to specifically define a biasing spring  
22 structure on the interior of one of the arm segments 36 or 38.  
23 Such biasing spring exerts a pulling force on the cable. This  
24 pulling force, wherein the cable passes around the knuckle  
25 joint, causes the arm segments to be biased outwardly so as to

1 generally assist them in separating or assuming the expanded  
2 position, as shown in Figure 2, if necessary. Still, due to the  
3 fact that screen 12 is formed from a relatively heavy material  
4 and also that the viewing screen 12 is maintained in a vertical  
5 orientation, the force derived from the spring loading of the  
6 biasing spring within and in cooperation with the two arm sets  
7 32 and 34 is generally not sufficient in and of itself to  
8 selectively and effectively position the viewing screen 12 in  
9 the desired exposed orientation. Accordingly, if used, they  
10 will generally supplement the preferred positioning assembly,  
11 namely a gas spring 50 associated directly with at least one,  
12 but preferably each of the arm sets 32 and 34.

13 With regard to the Figures 4 and 5, another embodiment of  
14 the present invention is disclosed wherein supplemental gas  
15 springs such as at 60 and 62 may be added to substantially  
16 increase the driving force to each of the arms sets 32 and 34.  
17 Such supplemental gas springs 60 and 62 are drivingly  
18 interconnected between the base portion 26 of the support frame  
19 and preferably the lowermost arm segment 36 of each of the arm  
20 sets 32 and 34. It is, of course, recognized in the video  
21 projection screen industry that significantly large screen sizes  
22 are available for use. It is apparent that the larger size of  
23 such viewing screens 12 may range in size up to and above 84  
24 inches. Furthermore, the present invention recognizes that the  
25 increased weight of such enlarged viewing screens may also

1       necessitate an additional expanding force. In an illustrated  
2       embodiment of the invention, the additional expanding force is  
3       derived by including at least one, but preferably two  
4       supplemental gas springs 60 and 62 associated in driving  
5       relation to each of the arm sets 32 and 34 in order to provide  
6       a supplemental driving force to efficiently dispose and maintain  
7       the larger viewing screen in the vertically oriented, expanded  
8       position for viewing. In this additional embodiment, each of  
9       the supplemental gas springs are interconnected between the base  
10      portion defined by support bar 28 and the lowermost arm segment  
11      36 of each set of arms 32 and 34. As a result, the force of the  
12      supplemental gas springs functions to straighten the lowermost  
13      arm segments 36 relative to the base portion 26.

14               Since many modifications, variations and changes in detail  
15      can be made to the described preferred embodiment of the  
16      invention, it is intended that all matters in the foregoing  
17      description and shown in the accompanying drawings be  
18      interpreted as illustrative and not in a limiting sense. Thus,  
19      the scope of the invention should be determined by the appended  
20      claims and their legal equivalents.

21               Now that the invention has been described,